

CITY ASSESSOR WILL MAKE WAR ON ARMY AUTOS

Plans To Attack Former Attorney
General's Opinion Exempting
Officers From Taxation

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DEVELOPS A BIG MESS

Owners of Many Machines Re-
sort To Juggling Tags To
Dodge Revenue

(From Thursday Advertiser.)

Several hundred army officers stationed here, who have enjoyed the luxury of automobiles without paying the territorial taxes on such machines, make up one moving after the first of the year to find their autos seized for taxes.

An opinion of a former attorney-general, which for years has shielded the machines of army officers from taxation, is to be put to the test, according to a declaration made by James L. Wilder, district tax assessor. Its legality is to be passed upon by the court.

Under this opinion, the tax assessor was informed that all machines on the military reservation, the first of the year were not liable for taxation, presumably upon the theory that as the jurisdiction of the territory does not extend to such reservations, it has no right to tax property upon it.

Assessor Deane H. Wilder declared his intention to seize these machines during a speech before the chamber of commerce yesterday afternoon, when he took up the report of H. Gooding Field on delinquent automobile taxes, to show reasons why a percentage of machines escaped taxation.

He showed many reasons. He declared the police had utterly failed to assist him; that in many cases it was almost impossible to trace the ownership of an auto. And then he came at length to the machines owned by army officers.

"Several years ago," he said, "I was told by an attorney that every man who owned an automobile on the military reservation, the first of the year could not be taxed. At the time that opinion was handed down, there were only a few cars there, so it did not mean much revenue, but since that time their number has grown until now there are a few hundred."

"I may as well say now that I propose to put this opinion to a test, and will, therefore, seize machines on the reservation and hold them for taxes. We can fight the matter out in court," Sheriff Withers declared.

In the last few days the tax assessor has taken over the work the sheriff neglected to do, and as a result has several machines being held for taxes. Mr. Wilder said yesterday that while the sheriff had not refused to assist him, he had neglected so, though important, several times that the road tax assessor was now running up the machines which had not paid their taxes, thus doing what should be done by the sheriff.

Auto taxes are looked upon as a charge against a machine for its wear upon the road, and the chamber members seemed to feel that the officers should contribute to this road tax as civilians, the machines doing an equal amount of damage to the highway.

"I don't know whether the opinion is correct in its law or not," said Mr. Wilder. "But I do know I am going to give it a test."

Mr. Field's report, which went into the matter of automobile taxation, stated that about forty per cent of the taxes were unpaid. At the meeting yesterday Mr. Wilder explained the large delinquent percentage, saying that he believed only 500 of the registered 1800 machines are in operation here.

Many Strange Things

All sorts of strange things have been discovered in the past few days by officials of the city assessor's office in going over the records to determine how much is due in delinquent tax payments. Some of the automobiles have changed hands so many times that difficulty is encountered in determining the liability. One car has been located for which two years' tax payments are due, and the present owner will have to pay them, according to the deputy assessor.

A Premier car bearing the metal tag number 881 was seized yesterday for payment of taxes. The tag originally was issued for Kimo Kimo and was switched to avoid payment of the tax on the Premier.

Reckoning First of Year

The provisions of the new municipal automobile ordinance, which requires the re-registration of all machines on January 1, will greatly simplify the work of the tax assessor, especially as the last legislature enacted a law requiring the payment of the automobile tax annually. By checking up with the municipal officials, the tax assessor will be able to determine whether all licensed cars have had their taxes paid.

Assessor Wilder proposes to ask for an amendment to the statute so that his office will be given the authority to handle the licenses, thus simplifying the work. Under this arrangement a different colored number tag would be issued each year, showing at a glance whether the tax had been paid.

Welsh Car Seized

Having been delinquent in the payment of some of his taxes since 1907, William L. Welsh was placed in an embarrassing position when the tax assessor seized his seven-passenger rent car and placed it in block. The payment of \$560 will secure the return of the car, according to Deputy Assessor A. W. Nooley. According to the statute current yesterday, Welsh had foolishly made public statements that he never intended to pay his taxes.

WELFARE WORKERS DISCUSS PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE ACTS

Eugenics, Saloon Regulation and
Kindred Social Measures Are
Being Threshed Out

(From Thursday Advertiser.)

The legislative conference met yesterday afternoon at the Library of Hawaii for the discussion of a number of problems affecting the social welfare of this city.

This organization, it is intended to include all the social workers of Honolulu. It has no enrolled membership, no charter or by-laws and those who attend its meetings pay no dues. The legislative conference is not, as has been stated, connected in any way with the associated charities, which any other society but is intended to serve as a clearing house for the varying opinions of all who are interested in the betterment of the local social conditions. There are only two officers in this organization, the chairman, Orville Stanford R. Dole and Mr. S. Bowen, secretary.

Gids Are Considered

The first topic for discussion was a paper by Mrs. P. L. Weaver. This report had been read Tuesday at the Women's meeting at Central Union Church and was presented before the legislative conference by request.

"Do you remember that in her speech of two weeks ago today, Miss Herrick referred to her public appeal through the press that some home be opened to shelter an Hawaiian girl who must leave the Girls' Industrial School, to face a hard fight against great odds if she were to live as a good woman?"

Honolulu Did Not Answer

"The morning of its publication, the industrial school contained many groups of people in eager response. Christian women, Catholic sisters, Protestant deaconesses, Hawaiian Missionary societies; it was their special province, they said, bonds, public, ladies' aid societies, the clergy, one and all, quick to answer in a situation so essentially the same as that of the old time story told on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, in which occur the well known lines, 'I was an hungered and ye gave me meat; a stranger and ye took me in.'"

"Hardly so—that challenge to the reality of its faith, Honolulu absolutely turned down, refused to consider. By our church we said, 'Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost,' which advice in this case the devil forthwith followed. We at churches, clergy, laymen, were in this group. One Hawaiian woman, handicapped by poverty, opened her heart and home."

"In the light of this incident our churches, our agencies of Christian charity, take on a strange significance. What about the habit of mind, for instance that can consider with tender solicitude the condition of child widows in India, and with complacency toward our own weaklings to wit? Some of us since may have recalled those stinging words, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, ye cursed.'"

Something like this, the speaker said, for the moment the question of money obligation assumed in offering a home to one thus seeking to earn her living, what are the other essentials? First, bodily protection, at least to the extent of the oversight of a responsible person. Second, a money obligation, the assumption of the new obligation must not put undue strain upon one's power to discharge earlier and more fundamental obligations, undue strain, for any obligation means strain, and the degree of strain allowable each must settle for himself.

Americans Self-Sufficient

"In Macchiavelli's 'The Prince,' he says that an institution, no state can long endure that does not prepare some orderly method of return to its fundamental, basic conception. In a monarchy, from peasant to king, and king to peasant there must run an unbroken sense of loyalty and submission to power manifested in different ranks and degrees.

"An American community is a social whole. The civic institutions and the body of citizens are two poles of the same circuit. The community, finding it impossible to deal with individuals, organizes certain institutions, the police, the school, many agencies of mercy and correction. Because the essence of individual energy, needing to the community, the methods of segregation of such energy is fairly organized. The institution does its work, the individual, educated, honest, formed, must again become a part of the mass, with all its multiplex associations, its normal activities."

"It is right here our social machinery breaks down. The civic institution and the community are the two poles of the same circuit, but to the average man or woman, the wires are down. The institutions are short-circuited. There is a stoppage of circulation, and such stoppage always means pressure and danger. We have made the return of the institutional 'energy' unnecessarily hard. The institutions, with all their faults, are nevertheless, police concerns, the general goodwill of the public is genuine. The two are without effective connection. With the best heart in the world how is the average business man to women to pick an connections?"

U's Instruments At Hand

"Here is a plan suggested as a basis of discussion. 'Any already existing group, interested among its other activities, in any form of child welfare, is a possible unit. Let this organization have a child welfare committee. The Guild at St. Andrew's, the societies at Central Union Church and doubtless many another is already so organized; there are many committees in deed, if not in exact wording, of this character."

"The group of women backing the public school at Kaimuki, the College Club and many others are quickly brought to mind. Each is already a well defined social unit, able to organize its affairs and handle its finances."

"Each such group sends its chairman of the child welfare committee to meet with similar officers from other groups. This meeting of chairmen forms the connective element. On the one side are the clubs, already rooted in the common life. On the other are the civic institutions, the Juvenile Court, with its probation officer, the Boys' and the Girls' Industrial schools, the public school, the district nurse, medical inspector, market inspector and many another. Then experts, like Miss Herrick or Judge Whitney, whom they have worked with, and who will have some definite place to go, a willingness to watch over the process of re-entering the institutional graduate into the common life."

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Thompson On Eugenics

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Rev. W. P. Ferguson, secretary of the anti-saloon league then presented the draft of five bills which it passed by the legislature of 1915 will materially curtail saloon privileges. These were as follows:—to limit the area within which saloon licenses may be granted in this city to the district bounded by Beretania, Alakea, Queen and Smith streets;

—to forbid the use of frosted or any other opaque glass in saloon windows and doors;

—forbidding the consumption of liquor in hotels, restaurants and other public resorts not holding liquor selling privileges;

—forbidding "treating" in a saloon; and, providing that all saloons shall remain closed from six o'clock Saturday evening until six o'clock Monday morning.

These present at yesterday's meeting were: Judge Sanford R. Dole, Judge and Mrs. P. L. Weaver, Miss E. Cross, Rev. W. P. Ferguson, Rev. J. W. Wadman, Mrs. F. M. Swaney, Mrs. Fred W. Macfarlane, C. H. Dickey, H. S. Bowen, Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich Thompson, Mrs. C. T. Pitts, Mrs. Wilcox, Miss Bergin and Miss Chandler.

Participants In Important Conference Attempt To Solve All-Important Issues

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